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(Working Paper)

30 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Thomas

SUBJECT : Comments on [] Initial Proposed List
of Objectives (Subject Targets)

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1. You have requested my comments on [] tentative list classifying Objectives as they might appear in JSOP Annex A. My initial comments are as follows:

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(a) All of my comments must be seen as tentative, since it is not possible to do a thorough job of analysis of this proposal without having appended to each of [] titles a precise definition of what he intends to cover therein. I am making the assumption that he has read the definitions in CIRIS-72 and that these match his intentions; however, this should be verified by careful discussion in each case.

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(b) My second generalized comment is that CIRIS for calendar year 1973 will not be put to bed until late summer or early fall. Thus, it is possible that experience this spring and summer may lead us to want to make some few changes in the list of Subject Targets as shown in CIRIS-72. I do not know what the JSOP Annex A time schedule is; perhaps we can fit these all together; however, I would hope that it would not be necessary to freeze on a JSOP list of titles and definitions this spring. This aspect warrants further discussion.

(c) My third generalized comment is to suggest that [] initial list should include a number of "baskets", which hopefully will not be overused but which need to be available in those cases where resources cannot be fully allocated to the more specific topics. For example, we know that NSA is not able to report on SRF:ICBM as vs. SRF: MR/IRBM; it is necessary to add a "basket" called SRF: not classified. I will identify each of these specific cases at a subsequent point in this discussion.

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(d) My fourth generalized comment is to urge that the DIA people not rush too fast into the selection of topics. This is quite a complex subject, where words must be quite carefully delineated and topics distinguished from each other. This problem should be approached in a coordinated way and it should not be anticipated that all questions can be answered in one or two conversations. This needs reflection, careful examination, and some testing.

(e) Finally, on my generalized comments, I see quite a variance from the Objectives as stated in the initial DCID 1/2 Supplement. Continuity is important, and the rationale and overall concept for changes

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needs to be examined so that JSOP purposes and community purposes can be harmonized within a common, larger framework that makes sense to all. I think it would be most helpful to build from where we are now with DCID 1/2 listings. One aspect of that further orderly development should be to look at the CIRIS-72 subject targets and note which DCID 1/2 Objectives have been related to which CIRIS topics. Note also that 8 Objectives have not been related to CIRIS Subject Targets at all (6 on Warning and 2 on Target Information.) This examination may well lead us to agree that a further process of harmonizing these two is required -- that takes time and careful attention and working together.

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2. Specific Comments

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Approved For Release 2004/06/15 : CIA-RDP86M00612R000200020045-2

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Approved For Release 2004/06/15 : CIA-RDP86M00612R000200020045-2